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Letter dated 23 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the last Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone, I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Committee (see annex), which contains an account of the Committee's activities during the period 1 January to 29 September 2010, when the Committee was dissolved with the adoption of Council resolution 1940 (2010). The report is submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone covers the period from 1 January to 29 September 2010, when the Committee was dissolved with the adoption of Council resolution 1940 (2010).

2. From 1 January to 29 September 2010, the Bureau of the Committee consisted of Nawaf Salam (Lebanon) as Chairman, with the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brazil providing the Vice-Chairs.

II. Background information and summary of the work of the Committee

A. Background information

3. By its resolution 1132 (1997), the Security Council, determining that the situation in Sierra Leone following the military coup of 25 May 1997 constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region, imposed a mandatory ban on the sale or supply by States to Sierra Leone of arms and related materiel, as well as petroleum and petroleum products. By the same resolution, the Council also imposed travel restrictions on members of the military junta and adult members of their families, and decided to establish a Committee to oversee the implementation of the measures.

4. Subsequently, by its resolution 1156 (1998), the Council lifted the oil embargo. By its resolution 1171 (1998), the Council confirmed the removal of sanctions on the Government and reimposed the arms embargo on non-governmental forces, as well as the travel ban on leading members of the Revolutionary United Front and of the former military junta. The Council also decided that States would notify all exports from their territories of arms or related materiel to Sierra Leone to the Committee established by resolution 1132 (1997), that the Government of Sierra Leone would mark, register and notify to the Committee all imports made by it of those items, and that the Committee would report regularly to the Council on notifications so received.

5. In its resolution 1306 (2000), the Council decided, inter alia, that all States should, for an initial period of 18 months, prohibit the direct or indirect import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through the certificate of origin regime would be exempt from those measures. The prohibitions on diamonds not controlled by the certificate of origin regime were extended for additional periods of 11 months and 6 months, respectively, by resolutions 1385 (2001) and 1446 (2002).

6. On 5 June 2003, the President of the Security Council read out a statement to the press in which he noted, inter alia, that in the light of the increased efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to control and manage its diamond industry and ensure proper control over diamond-mining areas, as well as the Government's full participation in the Kimberley Process, the members of the Council had agreed not to renew the prohibition against the import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone not controlled by the certificate of origin regime.

7. By its resolution 1793 (2007), the Council decided to exempt from the travel ban the travel of any witnesses whose presence was required at trials before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

8. By its resolution 1940 (2010), the Council decided to terminate, with immediate effect, the measures set forth in paragraphs 2, 4, and 5 of resolution 1171 (1998). The Council further decided to dissolve the Committee established by paragraph 10 of resolution 1132 (1997) with immediate effect.

B. Summary of the activities of the Committee

9. Although the Committee held no formal meetings or informal consultations during the reporting period, it was able to successfully carry out its work through written procedures. During the period under review, the Committee received three notifications of exports of arms and related materiel to Sierra Leone pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1171 (1998).

10. In a letter dated 14 June 2010, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations notified the Chairman of the Committee of the temporary transfer of Issa H. Sesay from Kigali to The Hague, to appear as a witness in the trial of Charles Taylor before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The letter also provided relevant information in connection with the temporary transfer of Mr. Sesay from Kigali to The Hague. Mr. Sesay was convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 25 February 2009 and is serving his prison sentence in Rwanda. He was subject to the travel ban imposed by paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1171 (1998) and his travel to The Hague took place under an exemption to the travel ban provided for by paragraph 8 of resolution 1793 (2007), by which the Council decided to exempt from the travel ban the travel of any witnesses whose presence was required at trials before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

11. In a letter dated 31 August 2010, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations notified the Chairman of the Committee that Mr. Sesay, who had appeared as a witness before the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, was due to return to Kigali on 2 September 2010 to serve the remainder of his prison sentence. The letter also provided relevant information in connection with the return of Mr. Sesay to Rwanda.

C. Violations and alleged violations of the sanctions regime

12. During the reporting period, no violations or alleged violations of the sanctions regime were brought to the attention of the Committee.